

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mt. Hope High School Cafeteria

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell, Paul Brulé, David Dugan, William Estrella (5:53)

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Diana Campbell, Karen Lynch (5:55), Marjorie McBride, John Saviano, Paul Silva, Edward Mara, Jane Correia and Bob Pugh

Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 5:42 PM.

Approval of Minutes

David Dugan motioned to approve the minutes to the September 17, 2007 meeting; Paul Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Cost and Logistics Analysis on the Closing of Byfield and/or

Reynolds

Bill O'Dell opened discussion with a few remarks from the Reynolds SALT Team Report of January 2006. Almost all the comments in the report were positive; however, it was noted the school does not have adequate facilities to fulfill its mission, there is not enough space, and the recommendation was to work with the District and the Bristol Warren community to secure a new facility.

Mrs. Correia distributed the attached analysis of savings in closing Byfield and in closing Reynolds, including the annual costs and one-time costs. If both buildings are closed, there is enough classroom space to accommodate all the students. An overview of the student population from 1995 is included.

Questions/Comments:

John Saviano questioned the Principal costs; Jane Correia explained the figure includes fringe benefits as well as retirement contributions.

Gerard Ruddick asked if the "Projected Work" is a necessity in order to open the school in September. Jane Correia and Ed Mara said these items have been on the wait list for some time but could be accomplished over the next 3 to 4 years. The elevator is an ADA issue.

Marie Knappman asked if the utility costs for Colt Andrews could be projected. It was explained that heat and electricity has been

maintained at those buildings even though they are closed.

Kristen Quinn asked what work would have to be completed to keep the Reynolds building open for one more year. Jane Correia and Bob Pugh felt the electrical upgrade would have to be done.

Jim Casalegno commented that looking at closure costs limits the District; it would be more meaningful to look at the plan; closing a building causes something else to happen.

Terri Moreira asked if the bond renovations to Colt Andrews will cover all of the building needs so that further enhancements by the District will not be necessary. John Saviano said nothing is anticipated but if a new regulation comes through, we would have to comply.

David Dugan commented that if most of the upgrade work is not necessary to keep Reynolds open one more year, then \$25,000 is not much to keep it open.

Karen Binder asked if another budget meeting will be held after Dr. Mara reveals his revised plan. Bill O'Dell responded there will not and he felt there was a great deal of misinformation at Monday's meeting. Bill Estrella said there is no significant change in regards to finances in Dr. Mara's plan.

Gerard Ruddick asked why there seems to be a lack of focus on a timeline. Bill O'Dell explained the function of this committee is to determine costs and savings; discussion as to when is for another time.

MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned that the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee recommend to the full School Committee that they decommission the Reynolds and Byfield buildings according to the Superintendent's schedule. David Dugan seconded.

Paul Brule commented that it takes time to close a building; he does not believe Colt Andrews will open on September 1, we must be cautious right now; he has many questions for the contractor; we have had the heat and electricity on at Colt Andrews all year so this action will be a savings.

Terri Moreira asked that if the building is kept open for one more year and this discussion will be taking place one year from now, then why not keep the building open forever. Bill O'Dell said the full Committee must make that determination.

Michelle Casalegno asked about the disposition of the building if it is closed; it will be returned to the Town.

Jim Casalegno asked what happens to the Principal. The position is eliminated.

Michelle Casalegno asked about the proposed coordinator position. Bill O'Dell responded this is a discussion for next year's budget.

On a show of hands, the motion to approve passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Adjournment

At 6:26 PM, Paul Brule, seconded by Bill Estrella, motioned to adjourn; the motion passed unanimously.

/ca